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physician, Castalani, whose name has already been brought into prominent notice through his scientific studies of sleeping sickness in Uganda. Castalani, who now occupies the chair of pathology in the medical school at Colombo, Ceylon, has been invited to go to England to make a demonstration of his studies and experiments before the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

# MEXICO.

## *Report from Monterey—Sanitary conditions at Valles, and danger of reinfection of Tampico.*

Assistant Surgeon Goldberger reports as follows:

MONTEREY, MEXICO, *June 9, 1904.*

I returned to this city last night after a visit to Valles for the purpose of making an inspection of its sanitary condition. Valles is a town of about 2,000 inhabitants, about 90 miles from Tampico on the San Luis division of the Mexican Central Railroad. The town is built on a rise of ground overlooking a small stream, the Rio Naranjo, from which the water supply of the town is obtained.

There are no wells; all the drinking water is brought from the river and kept for use in jars, cans, and barrels, which, naturally, form excellent breeding places for mosquitoes.

There are, of course, no sewers, and I am told that, until recently, few, if any, cesspools. The policing of the town was, and in large measure still is, left to the ubiquitous pigs, dogs, and hens.

In 1898 and again in 1903 the town was scourged by yellow fever. About three weeks ago a suspicious case was reported, but was not officially confirmed. The patient died, and his hut was destroyed by fire. Why this should have been done, under the circumstances, is not clear. The case was reported by a railroad surgeon whom I was unable to meet, as he travels back and forth over the line, and circumstances did not seem to justify my spending four or five days in an effort to meet him.

A local practitioner, an American, told me that there was but little sickness in the town and that he had seen no suspicious cases. I am inclined to give some weight to this man's opinion as he is a non-immune and would be likely to leave, as he did last year, at the appearance of yellow fever.

The sanitary measures taken for the prevention of an outbreak this year are on precisely the same lines as those being carried out in the other cities which were infected last year, and are under the direction of the superior board of health of Mexico. All houses suspected of infection have been or are being disinfected with sulphur. Water containers are inspected and an attempt is made to minimize the propagation of mosquitoes by emptying those containers having larvæ, or by oiling them.

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Fortunately, the presence of yellow fever in this town is of only secondary importance.

The character of its population is such that there is practically no travel from it to the United States. It threatens us only through Tampico, which it might readily reinfest, as the drift of travel (laborers) is from Valles to the seaport.

It may not be out of place to invite attention to this matter of rein-

fection of Tampico from towns which originally received their infection from Tampico, as I believe it is true of other fever centers, such as Vera Cruz, Coatzacoalcos, and Merida. Because of the comparatively high rate of wages in Tampico, labor tends to drift in that direction from nearby points. At the outbreak of an epidemic many such laborers scatter to their homes, taking the infection with them.

In a general way, practically all towns on the San Luis and Monterey divisions of the Mexican Central Railroad had yellow fever in them last year. From the railroad towns the infection was carried to towns and ranches at a considerable distance, as for example Morelos and Cruillas in the State of Tamaulipas and Agualeguas in Nuevo Leon. In some of the towns only a few cases occurred; in others few persons escaped.

It is not unlikely that in many of these small towns and villages the infection has survived and with the drift of labor to the larger towns this summer the infection may be brought back again to its original source. As an illustration of this I may refer to some of the imported cases in Vera Cruz as reported in a recent number of the Public Health Reports. I am led to speak of this because as I was leaving Tampico to return to this city I found that a system of surveillance had been instituted with a view to preventing those sick from leaving Tampico and the above would justify a system working both ways.

#### *Disinfection of wells at Monterey.*

Doctor Liceaga writes that the Federal sanitary service still continues to defray the expenses for fumigating wells in Monterey, and that the council has ordered all wells in the city to be closed by a wooden cover or wire netting.

See Public Health Reports, May 20, 1904, page 962.

#### *Reports from Progreso and Merida—Inspection of vessels—Yellow fever in Merida.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Harrison reports as follows: Week ended June 8, 1904. Present officially estimated population, 8,000; no quarantinable diseases in Progreso; number of deaths during the week, seven; among the causes of death were malaria and tuberculosis; general sanitary condition of port and country during the week hardly good.

In the neighboring city of Merida yellow fever appears to be continuous, there being 7 or 8 cases there now, besides several suspects. All cases of that fever are sent to the lazaretto as soon as discovered, both in Merida and in Progreso.

Bills of health were issued as follows:

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Crew.	Passengers from Progreso.	Passengers in transit.
May 28	Vigilancia.....	New York .....	79	80	38
June 2	Susie B. Dantzler, schr. <sup>a</sup> .....	Ship Island.....	12	.....	.....
4	Habana .....	New York .....	96	61	44
4	Gertrude A. Bartlett, schr. <sup>a</sup> .....	Mobile .....	9	.....	.....
4	Nimrod, tug <sup>a</sup> .....	do .....	9	.....	.....
8	Markomannia <sup>a</sup> .....	New Orleans .....	38	.....	.....

<sup>a</sup> Disinfected with sulphur dioxide.